

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

In the amendment of the claims, claim 1 is presently amended to include the limitations of claims 5, 9 and 11. Claims 5, 9 and 11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 10 is amended to depend from claim 1 due to the cancellation of claim 9. Entry of the amendment of claims is respectfully requested in the next Office communication.

The method according to amended claim 1 advantageously directly connects a person searching for information on the Internet with a human search assistant. This is in contradistinction with systems wherein the person is connected to an automated searching system, such as GOOGLE or YAHOO. Instead, the human search assistant is able to work with the person making the request to formulate an effective search inquiry.

Concerning the Goedken patent (U.S. 6,393,423), this patent is not related to the method required in amended claim 1. Instead, the Goedken patent relates to an "Internet" community wherein a request is sent to one of a plurality of information custodians after the information custodian has been selected by a first database (col. 5, lines 31-51). There is no connection between a requestor and a searcher in order to formulate a request in the Goedken patent. Instead, the search request is automatically routed to an information custodian, regardless as to whether the search request was proper or not.

A more detailed discussion as to the differences of previously presented claim 1 and the Goedken patent is provided in Applicant's response dated March 14, 2005.

It is abundantly clear in view of amended claim 1 that a method according to the pending application aids in preventing the submission of an inappropriate or

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erroneous search inquiry. This is due to the fact that the method relies on human search assistants that are skilled in interpreting information requests and can efficiently direct a requestor to a specialized adjunct human search assistant.

In view of amended claim 1 and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is kindly requested that claims 1-11 and 13-16 be allowed, and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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